

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 04677 100756Z

14-12

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-01 DODE-00 COME-00

CIAE-00 L-02 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /086 W

----- 088962

R 100500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3863

UNCLAS CAIRO 4677

FROM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT EG

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA PORT CONGESTION

REF: CAIRO 3933

1. PRESS MAY 9 REPORTS PRIMIN SALIM TOUR OF INSPECTION AT ALEXANDRIA PORT PREVIOUS DAY AND MEETINGS WITH RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. PRIMIN HAS "ORDERED" CLEARANCE OF CARGO PILEUP ON DOCKS IN NEXT 30 DAYS, AS IMPOROVEMENT ON TWO MONTH DEADLINE SET BY NEW MINISTER OF MARITIME TRANSPORT ABDUL RAHMAN FAHMY.

2. PRIMIN HAS DIRECTED THAT ALL NEWLY LANDED CARGO MUST BE REMOVED BY IMPORTERS WITHIN 72 HOURS. MINISTRY OF MARINE TRANSPORT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TAKE NECESSARY ACTION AND IMPOSE NECESSARY PENALTIES TO CARRY THIS OUT. PUNISHMENT WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT FOR THOSE PRIVATE OR STATE ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE GOODS ALREADY ARE JAMMING DOCK SPACE. SPECIFICALLY CITED ARE PRESENCE ON DOCK OF 2,000 CARS, 200 BUSES, 25,000 TONS OF NEWSPRINT AND MUCH MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT DESTINED FOR NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS AND SUMED PIPELINE.

3. EARLIER PRESS REPORTS INDICATED MINISTER OF MARITIME TRANSPORT HAD BEEN DELEGATED "ALL NECESSARY" POWERS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PRIMIN TO SPEED PORT CLEARANCE AND ENFORCE NECESSARY

PENALTIES INCLUDNG RIGHT TO CALL UPON OTHER MINISTRIES  
AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION.

4. COMMENT: AUGEAN STABLE-LIKE ALEXANDRIA PORT ALMOST DEFIES CLEANUP AS INCREASED FOREIGN TRADE FLOODS DOCKS WITH MORE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS THAN HARBOR WAS EVER DESIGNED TO HANDLE. NEVERTHELESS VISIT TO PORT ON NORMAL FRIDAY SABBATH HOLIDAY FOUND UNUSUAL LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AND, SINCE LAST VISIT ABOUT 3 WEEKS AGO, MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN CLEARING SUCH BOTTLENECK AREAS AS GRAIN CARGOES AND FERTILIZERS. GENERAL CARGO HANDLING STILL VERY SLOW AND THERE ARE STILL BADLY UTILIZED AREAS WHERE SHEER JUNK AND OBVIOUSLY LONG-STANDING PILES OF MERCHANDISE STILL OBSTRUCT FLOW OF TRANSPORT AND POTENTIAL STORAGE SPACE.

6. AT SAME TIME, PRIMIN PERSONAL INTERESTS MAY STIMULATE EVEN STRONGER EFFORTS, AND UTILIZATION AND SEVERAL HUNDRED ARMY TRUCKS AND TROOPS IN BOTH REDUCING BACKLOG AND PROVIDING EXAMPLE TO REGULAR PORT WORKERS. SIGNED  
CHASE.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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